

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent  
*Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15<sup>th</sup> District*



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Press Contact: Gregg W. Bortz  
610-861-9734 or (cell) 202-222-5118

## Congressman Dent votes to update surveillance laws to counter terrorist threat

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15), a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, voted in favor of the Electronic Surveillance Modernization Act, which passed the House Thursday night. This legislation provides tools for law enforcement to monitor terrorist communications, a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.

H.R. 5825, the Electronic Surveillance Modernization Act, updates the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act for the Internet/cell phone era to make it technology neutral. The bill also increases congressional oversight of terrorist surveillance and installs other safeguards to ensure that Americans' civil liberties are protected.

“Our laws are designed to protect the American people and their freedoms, not protect terrorists and their operations,” Congressman Dent said. “This bill is essential to help our counter-terrorist efforts to lawfully and effectively stop terrorist attacks before they happen.”

The bill clearly stipulates that such surveillance can be conducted on foreign agents and not ordinary American citizens. It also removes excessive bureaucracy and streamlines the process of applying for a FISA warrant. The act establishes specific rules to govern foreign intelligence surveillance in the wake of an attack on the United States to allow the government to respond swiftly to terrorist threats. It also outlines specific rules in the event of an imminent threat against the United States.

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